

5 What is claimed is:

1. A system for adaptively placing a call via one of a plurality of transmission modes, comprising:

 a first interface to a network-enabled telephone device;

 a second interface to at least one communications link;

10 and

 a host, communicating with the first interface and the second interface, the host selectively initiating a call from the network-enabled telephone device as at least one of a telephone call and a data connection via the at least one communications link according to at least one transmission criterion.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the network-enabled telephone device comprises a SIP-enabled telephone device.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the first interface comprises a USB connection.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the first interface comprises a wireless interface.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the host comprises a Wireless Markup Language module.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the host comprises a computer.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one transmission criterion comprises at least one of cost, time of

5 day, day of week, user-defined routing data, packet delay and signal to noise ratio.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the call comprises a telephone call and the at least one communications link comprises the public switched telephone network.

10 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the call comprises a data connection and the at least one communications link comprises the Internet.

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15 10. The system of claim 1, further comprising a media management module, the media management module executing at least one of a cordless telephone operation, an answering machine operation, a pager operation, an intercom operation, and an audio/visual operation via the network-enabled telephone device.

20 11. The system of claim 1, wherein the host selectively retries at least a data connection to reassess transmission conditions.

25 12. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one communications link comprises a plurality of communications links, and the host selectively activates one of the communications links according to the at least one transmission criterion.

13. A method for adaptively placing a call via one of a plurality of transmission modes, comprising:

5 a) receiving a call initiation request via a first
interface to a network-enabled telephone device; and

 b) selectively initiating a call from the network-
enabled telephone device as at least one of a telephone call
and a data connection via at least one communications link
10 according to at least one transmission criterion.

 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the network-enabled
telephone device comprises a SIP-enabled telephone device.

 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the first interface
comprises a USB connection.

15 16. The method of claim 13, wherein the first interface
comprises a wireless connection.

 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising a step of
c) executing a Wireless Markup Language module.

20 18. The method of claim 13, wherein the step b) of
selectively initiating is executed by a host computer.

 19. The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one
transmission criterion comprises at least one of cost, time of
day, day of week, user-defined routing data, packet delay and
signal to noise ratio.

25 20. The method of claim 13, wherein the call comprises a
telephone call and the at least one communications link
comprises the public switched telephone network.

5 21. The method of claim 13, wherein the call comprises a data connection and the at least one communications link comprises the Internet.

 22. The method of claim 13, further comprising a step of
d) executing at least one of a cordless telephone operation,
10 an answering machine operation, a pager operation, an intercom operation, and an audio/visual operation via the network-enabled telephone device.

 23. The method of claim 13, further comprising a step of
e) selectively retrying at least a data connection to reassess
15 transmission conditions.

 24. The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one communications link comprises a plurality of communications links, further comprising a step of f) selectively activating one of the communications links according to the at least one
20 transmission criterion.